

Application No. 10/682,277
Responsive to Office action of February 4, 2005

page 3
May 4, 2005

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A conductive memory device comprising:
 - a conductive bottom electrode;
 - a multi-resistive state element arranged on top of and in contact with the bottom electrode, the multi-resistive state element having a resistivity; and
 - a conductive top electrode arranged on top of and in contact with the multi-resistive state element;

wherein the resistivity of the multi-resistive state element may be changed by applying a first voltage having a first polarity across the conductive electrodes and reversibly changed by applying a second voltage having a second polarity across the conductive electrodes, the second polarity being opposite to the first polarity; and

wherein at least one of the conductive electrodes functions as a barrier layer; and

wherein at least one of the conductive electrodes comprises a conductive oxide and functions as a seed layer.
2. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 1, wherein:
the multi-resistive state element is fabricated with high temperature processes.
3. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 1, wherein:
the at least one of the conductive electrodes that functions as a barrier layer includes either titanium or titanium nitride.

Application No. 10/682,277
Responsive to Office action of February 4, 2005

page 4
May 4, 2005

4. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 1, wherein:
the at least one of the conductive electrodes that functions as a barrier layer
additionally functions as an adhesion layer.

5. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 1, wherein:
the at least one of the conductive electrodes that functions as a barrier layer
includes a binary nitride.

6. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 5, wherein:
the binary nitride is either titanium nitride, tantalum nitride or tungsten nitride.

7. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 5, wherein:
the binary nitride reduces either metal diffusion, oxygen diffusion, hydrogen
diffusion, or some combination thereof.

8. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 1, wherein:
the at least one of the conductive electrodes that functions as a barrier layer
includes a ternary nitride.

Application No. 10/682,277
Responsive to Office action of February 4, 2005

page 5
May 4, 2005

9. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 8, wherein:

the ternary nitride is either titanium silicon nitride, tantalum aluminum nitride, titanium aluminum nitride, or tantalum silicon nitride.

10. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 9, wherein:

the ternary nitride reduces either metal diffusion, oxygen diffusion, hydrogen diffusion, or some combination thereof.

11. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 8, wherein:

the ternary nitride has one component that is either ruthenium or iridium and another component that is either tantalum or titanium.

12. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 11, wherein:

the ternary nitride is ruthenium titanium nitride.

13. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 11, wherein:

the ternary nitride functions as a sacrificial high-temperature oxygen barrier.

14. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 1, wherein:

the at least one of the conductive electrodes that functions as a barrier layer includes a ternary oxide.

Application No. 10/682,277
Responsive to Office action of February 4, 2005

page 6
May 4, 2005

15. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 14, wherein:

the ternary oxide has one component that is either ruthenium or iridium and another component that is either tantalum or titanium.

16. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 15, wherein:

the ternary oxide is ruthenium tantalum oxide.

17. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 14, wherein:

the ternary oxide acts as a sacrificial high-temperature oxygen barrier, whereby the at least one of the conductive electrodes remains conductive after the ternary oxide reacts with oxygen.

18. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 1, wherein:

the at least one of the conductive electrodes that functions as a barrier layer includes a conductive oxide.

19. (Previously Presented) The conductive memory device of claim 18, wherein:

the conductive oxide is LaSrCoO₃, RuO₂, IrO₂, SrRuO₃, LaNiO₃, or a doped STO.

Application No. 10/682,277
Responsive to Office action of February 4, 2005

page 7
May 4, 2005

20. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 18, wherein:

a portion of the at least one of the conductive electrodes that functions as a barrier layer includes a conductive oxide and another portion of the at least one of the conductive electrodes that functions as a barrier layer includes a non-oxidized conductor such that the conductive oxide is an oxidized form of the non-oxidized conductor.

21. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 18, wherein:

the conductive oxide is a conductive metal that is oxidized during fabrication and remains conductive after oxidation.

22. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 21, wherein:

the metal is Ir or Ru.

23. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 18, wherein:

the conductive oxide modifies the formation of oxygen vacancies in the multi-resistive state element.

24. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 18, wherein:

the conductive oxide modifies the migration of oxygen vacancies in the multi-resistive state element.

Application No. 10/682,277
Responsive to Office action of February 4, 2005

page 8
May 4, 2005

25. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 18, wherein:

the multi-resistive state element is fabricated with high temperature processes.

26. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 18, wherein:

the conductive oxide does not degrade due to oxidation.

Application No. 10/682,277
Responsive to Office action of February 4, 2005

page 9
May 4, 2005

27. (Currently Amended) A conductive memory device comprising:
- a conductive bottom electrode;
 - a multi-resistive state element arranged on top of and in contact with the bottom electrode, the multi-resistive state element having a resistivity; and
 - a conductive top electrode arranged on top of and in contact with the multi-resistive state element;
- wherein the resistivity of the multi-resistive state element may be changed by applying a first voltage having a first polarity across the conductive electrodes and reversibly changed by applying a second voltage having a second polarity across the conductive electrodes;
- wherein at least one of the conductive electrodes functions as a barrier layer;
- wherein the at least one of the conductive electrodes that functions as a barrier layer includes a conductive oxide; and
- wherein:
- the bottom electrode is fabricated prior to the multi-resistive state material element;
 - the at least one of the conductive electrodes that functions as a barrier layer is the bottom electrode; and
 - the bottom electrode functions as a seed layer to the multi-resistive state material element.

Application No. 10/682,277
Responsive to Office action of February 4, 2005

page 10
May 4, 2005

28. (Currently Amended) The conductive memory device of claim 27, wherein:

the bottom electrode causes the multi-resistive state material element to have a lowered crystallization temperature.

29. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 18, wherein:

the at least one of the conductive electrodes that functions as a barrier layer includes a layer of metal in between the conductive oxide and the multi-resistive state element.

30. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 29, wherein the metal is platinum.

31. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 29, wherein the layer of metal introduces a non-linearity in the IV characteristics of the conductive memory device.

32. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 1, wherein:

the top electrode, the multi-resistive state element, and the bottom electrode each have similar coefficients of thermal expansion, whereby the conductive memory element does not experience significant stress from dissimilar coefficients of thermal expansions during normal operation.

Application No. 10/682,277
Responsive to Office action of February 4, 2005

page 11
May 4, 2005

33. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 1, wherein:

at least one of the bottom electrode, the multi-resistive state element, or the top electrode is protected by an insulating barrier.

34. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 33, wherein:

the insulating barrier includes silicon nitride.

35. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 33, wherein:

the insulating barrier includes aluminum oxide.

36. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 33, wherein:

the insulating barrier includes titanium oxide.

37. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 1, wherein:

the at least one of the conductive electrodes that functions as a barrier layer is the bottom electrode; and

the top electrode is a non-oxidized metal.

Application No. 10/682,277
Responsive to Office action of February 4, 2005

page 12
May 4, 2005

38. (Currently Amended) A conductive memory device, comprising:

a memory element that stores an adjustable resistive value;

two electrodes that deliver current to the memory element;

wherein at least one electrode includes a terminal layer that is suitable for connecting the electrode to either a conductive line or a transistor terminal;

wherein the at least one electrode has an outside face that is defined by the terminal layer and an inside face opposite the outside face; and

wherein the at least one electrode acts as a barrier layer; and

wherein at least one electrode comprises a conductive oxide and functions
acts as a seed layer.

39. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 38, wherein:

only a portion of the at least one electrode acts as barrier layer, the portion being located away from the outside face.

40. (Original) The conductive memory device of claim 38, wherein:

only a portion of the at least one electrode acts as barrier layer, the portion being located away from the inside face.

Application No. 10/682,277
Responsive to Office action of February 4, 2005

page 13
May 4, 2005

41. (Currently Amended) A re-writable memory comprising:

a substrate;

a plurality of circuits on the substrate;

a plurality of x-direction conductive lines oriented in one direction;

a plurality of y-direction conductive lines in a different direction as the x-direction conductive lines, and crossing the x-direction conductive lines; and

at least one memory array having memory cells located substantially at the intersections of the x-direction conductive lines and y-direction conductive lines;

wherein each of the memory cells in the memory array includes at least one electrode that acts as a barrier layer; and

wherein each of the memory cells in the memory array includes at least one electrode that acts and the at least one electrode comprises a conductive oxide and functions as a seed layer to at least a portion of the memory cell.

42. (Original) The re-writable memory of claim 41, wherein each memory cell includes a memory element that stores an adjustable resistive value.

43. (Previously Presented) The re-writable memory of claim 42, wherein each memory cell includes a crystalline conductive metal oxide memory element that stores an adjustable resistive value, the seed layer contributing to the crystalline structure of the conductive metal oxide.